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## COMPARATIVE STUDY OF SIMILES IN ENGLISH, GERMAN AND KAZAKH LANGUAGES

**Abstract.** This study explores English, German, and Kazakh similes, focusing on their linguistic structures, cultural significance, and communicative functions. Similes are a fascinating aspect of language that adds depth and color to communication. They are unique expressions that combine familiar elements in unexpected ways, often drawing on cultural references and linguistic creativity. In this article, we will consider similes' lexical and semantic features in three diverse languages: English, German, and Kazakh. By examining how these languages utilize similes for various purposes, we can gain insight into the nuances of their respective cultures and linguistic structures. The comparison of similes across these languages will not only highlight similarities and differences but also shed light on the rich tapestry of expressions that exist within each language. Through this exploration, we aim to deepen our understanding of how language shapes perception and thought, showcasing the beauty and complexity of similes in English, German, and Kazakh. Analyzing and comparing the structural and semantic systems of similes in different English, German, and Kazakh languages in terms of their genetic and typological structure in this matter, determines the unique features of each language.

**Keywords:** simile, comparison, comparative, culture, national identity.

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### Ағылшын, неміс және қазақ тілдеріндегі фразеологиялық теңеулерді салыстырып зерттеу

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**Аңдатпа.** Бұл зерттеу ағылшын, неміс және қазақ тілдеріндегі фразеологиялық теңеулерді зерттей отырып, олардың тілдік құрылымдарына, мәдени мәні мен коммуникативті қызметіне басым назар аударады. Фразеологиялық теңеулер – тілдің қарым-қатынасына тереңдік пен бояу қосатын тартымды қыры. Олар, әдетте, мәдени сілтемелер мен тілдік шығармашылыққа сүйене отырып, таныс элементтерді күтпеген тәсілдермен біріктіретін бірегей өрнектер. Бұл мақалада біз үш түрлі тілдегі: ағылшын, неміс және қазақ тілдеріндегі фразеологиялық теңеулердің лексикалық және семантикалық ерекшеліктерін қарастырамыз. Бұл тілдердің теңеулерді әртүрлі мақсаттарда қалай қолданатынын зерттей отырып, олардың тиісті мәдениеттері мен тілдік құрылымдарының нюанстары туралы түсінік қалыптастыра аламыз. Бұл тілдердегі фразеологиялық теңеулерді салыстыру ұқсастықтар мен айырмашылықтарды ашып қана қоймай, әр тілде кездесетін өрнектердің бай палитрасының мәнін аша түседі. Бұл зерттеу арқылы авторлар ағылшын, неміс және қазақ тілдеріндегі фразеологиялық теңеулердің сұлулығы мен күрделілігін көрсете отырып, тілдің қабылдау мен ойлауды қалай қалыптастыратынын түсінуді тереңдетуді мақсат етеді. Аталған мәселедегі генетикалық және типологиялық құрылымы жағынан әр түрлі ағылшын, неміс және қазақ тілдеріндегі теңеулердің, құрылымдық және мағыналық жүйелерін талдап, салғастыра зерттеу, әр тілдің өзіне ғана тән ерекшеліктерін айқындайды.

**Кілт сөздер:** теңеу, салғастыру, салыстыру, мәдениет, ұлттық болмыс.

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### **Сопоставительное изучение фразеологических сравнений в английском, немецком и казахском языках**

**Аннотация.** В этом исследовании изучаются фразеологические сравнения в английском, немецком и казахском языках, уделяется особое внимание их языковым структурам, культурному значению и коммуникативным функциям. Фразеологические сравнения — это интересный аспект языка, который добавляет глубину и красочность общению. Это уникальные выражения, которые сочетают знакомые элементы неожиданным образом, часто опираясь на культурные ссылки и лингвистическое творчество. В этой статье рассмотрены лексические и семантические особенности фразеологических сравнений в трех разных языках: английском, немецком и казахском. Изучая, как эти языки используют сравнения для различных целей, можно получить представление о нюансах соответствующих им культур и языковых структур. Сопоставление фразеологических сравнений в этих языках не только выявит сходства и различия, но и прольет свет на богатую палитру выражений, существующих в каждом языке. В ходе этого исследования авторы стремятся углубить понимание того, как язык формирует восприятие и мышление, демонстрируя красоту и сложность фразеологических сравнений в английском, немецком и казахском языках. Анализ и сопоставление структурных и семантических систем сравнений в английском, немецком и казахском языках, имеющих различную генетическую и типологическую структуру, выявляют уникальные особенности каждого языка..

**Ключевые слова:** сравнение, сопоставление, компаративистика, культура, национальная идентичность.

## Introduction

In the context of today's globalization and global integration policies, expanding the horizons of global sciences with new directions and considering any field of science in conjunction with “human factors and human values” is a pressing requirement of human civilization and the demands of the modern era. The current trajectory of linguistics, aimed at realizing the leading ideas of social and public communication within global applied and theoretical sciences, fully meets the requirements of the century. It seeks to address new challenges within the framework of the “subject – language – civilization” triad. With the acquisition of independence by our country, the profound changes in public life and shifts in ideological priorities have necessitated a reevaluation of certain long-established principles in the field of social sciences. Kazakhstan continues to strengthen its relations with prestigious international organizations and expand the scope of its cooperation with them. In this regard, addressing the features formed in the culture and language of European ethnic groups within the framework of Kazakh linguistics, while considering universal ideas and common interests, as well as integrative partnership initiatives and intergovernmental cooperation within global civilization, has become a demand of the present era.

Therefore, the comparative and contrastive study of related and unrelated languages, employing the principles and methodologies of comparative linguistics, is one of the rapidly developing new directions in both domestic and international linguistics. In this context, simile in English, German and Kazakh have not yet been fully studied or comprehensively conceptualized from a scientific perspective.

The object of the study, which will be discussed in the article, similes in English, German and Kazakh languages that are not genetically related.

Simile is the most ancient and simple method of logical equalization, which is often used in language, with great cognitive function. Reality, being the logical basis of knowledge of the world, is the most multifaceted, ambiguous linguistic phenomenon. It is the result of comparing the characteristic features of one object with another that is similar to itself. As a field of thought, the analogy has a special weight in giving importance to some object in terms of emotional perception of space and a comparative assessment of any phenomenon in it. From a philosophical point of view, the analogy is a reflection of the development of abstract thinking in a person, and from a linguistic point of view, it reflects the reflection of this thought in linguistic use. At the same time, it is an artistic method that enhances the figurative, artistic, emotional and expressive quality of the described object.

A simile is a figure of speech that is mainly used to compare two or more things that possess a similar quality. It uses words such as ‘like’ or ‘as’ to make the comparison.

According to the Oxford Learner’s Dictionary, a simile is defined as “a word or phrase that compares something to something else, using the words like or as.” The Cambridge Dictionary defines a simile as “an expression comparing one thing with another, always including the words as or like”. “A simile is an expression which describes a person or thing as being similar to someone or something else”, according to the Collins Dictionary. The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines a simile as “a figure of speech comparing two unlike things that is often introduced by like or as.”

A more detailed interpretation of the concept of “simile” in English is offered in the dictionary “Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English”:

1. A statement that someone or something is like someone or something else / judgment that someone or something is like another subject: the writer draws similes between the two presidents;
2. Used when you think that someone or something is much better than someone or something else / in the negative form used when you think that someone or something is much better than someone else: there's just no simile between canned vegetables and fresh ones.
3. A word used in grammar meaning the way an adverb or adjective changes its form to show whether it is comparative or superlative / a word used in grammar to reflect how an adverb or

adjective changes to form a comparative or superlative degree. The above definitions do not indicate the meaning of “stylistic device”, since in English the term “simile” is used to denote a stylistic device»:

“Simile” - a figure of speech involving the simile of one thing with another thing of a different kind, used to make a description more emphatic or vivid / figure of speech involving the simile of one subject with another in order to make the description more expressive or lively: as brave as a lion; (the use of) an expression comparing one thing with another, always including the words “as” or “like”/ (use of) an expression comparing one thing with another using the words “as” or “like”:

-she walks in beauty, like the night;

-an expression which describes a person or thing as being similar to someone or something else: she runs like a deer;

-a figure of speech that expresses the resemblance of one thing to another of a different category, usually introduced by as or like;

-a figure of speech in which one thing is likened to another, dissimilar thing by the use of like, as, etc.: a heart as big as a whale, her tears flowed like wine [1, p. 29].

### **Research methods and materials**

The past decade has seen significant developments in the study of phraseology, marked by a differentiation in the scope of research and methodological approaches. The inclusion of new issues and aspects related to the phraseological system has expanded the field of linguistics. The comparative analysis of related and unrelated languages, starting from simple theories to more complex approaches, has proven to be essential for both theoretical and applied linguistics.

This study adopts a comparative research methodology, with a focus on the collection, classification, and analysis of similes from three distinct languages: English, German, and Kazakh. The approach is designed to identify linguistic patterns and the cultural meanings embedded in these expressions. Through a typological comparison, the research explores the structural and semantic properties of similes in each of the languages, offering insights into their components, structures, and cultural contexts. The study contributes to a deeper understanding of similes across these languages and strengthens the methodological framework of comparative linguistics, specifically in the context of Germanic and Turkic languages.

The research contributes to the typological foundations of similes in English, German, and Kazakh, enriching the fields of semasiology and lexicology. By addressing the national and cultural features within these languages, the study adds value to linguistic and cultural research, ethnolinguistics, and international communication, fostering a deeper understanding of the nature of similes.

The research materials, analyses, and conclusions support the creation of bilingual dictionaries and compilations, as well as the writing of literary and scientific works. They can also be applied in specialized courses on linguistic and cultural studies, ethnolinguistics, linguistics, translation theory and practice, and comparative and contrastive phraseology.

The works of scholars such as I.I. Chernyshova, A.D. Raykhngghein, W. Fleischer, N.S. Fedoseeva and Z.A. Bozheeva, who studied similes as a distinct group within modern English and German phraseology, provided foundational guidance. The research also relied on the studies of notable Kazakh linguists T. Konyrov, who thoroughly examined similes from a linguistic perspective: G.N. Smagulava who analyzed the role of synonymous idioms in exploring cultural characteristics; A.B. Salkynbai, who detailed the role of similes in derivative word formation; S.K. Sateneva who explored the emergence of stable similes based zoological lexicon: R.A. Avakova who investigated the semantic features and formation of phraseological meaning; and E.M. Samekbaeva, who studied similes from a stylistic perspective.

In discussing the ways comparative fixed expressions are formed, A.B. Salkynbai concludes that many free expressions first turn into metaphors, then into phraseological comparatives, i.e., derivative fixed expressions. The scholar also states, “Comparatives are formed through metaphor, and from there, new derived meanings emerge in accordance with the needs that arise in the development of the language system and the conceptual development” [6, 260], and further clarifies this thesis with specific examples.

S.K. Satenova's work focuses on one of the stable forms of comparative structures. By analyzing metaphors formed based on zoolexicon from both a structural and etymological perspective, the scholar distinguishes between single, two, or three-element structures, as well as word combinations and sentence structures. The ways in which metaphors arise are as follows: a) the metaphorical or metonymic shift in the meaning of components of word combinations (e.g., “carrying out a fair deed” – meaning “honest person”); b) proverbs and sayings; c) fixed expressions (such as “neck like a gazelle”, “bit like a sparrow”, etc., which are abbreviated from full expressions) [2, p. 8].

E.M. Samekbaeva considers the group of phraseological comparatives to be one of the least studied areas in Kazakh phraseology. The researcher examines these linguistic units from the perspectives of lexicon-semantics and stylistics, particularly in the context of works of fiction, and provides the following definition: “Phraseological comparatives are linguistic-stylistic devices that consist of a four-part structure, expressing qualitative meanings of things, actions, or attributes by comparing them to the objects and phenomena of the real world” [3, p. 28].

Referring to T. Konirov's work, she categorizes these phraseological units according to their meaning, subject matter, and stylistic nature. The key conclusions drawn above play an important role in the study of phraseological units (PhUs) in other languages, as well as in the comparative study of PUs in related and non-related languages [4, p.102].

T.V. Shmeleva analyzes the core nouns in English similes, classifying them into thematic groups. Each group is given a specific lexical-semantic description. Based on the basis of the comparison, phraseological units (PUs) are divided into semantic groups. The work also discusses the factors influencing the choice of the core word in similes. Here, particular emphasis is placed on the cultural factors. “Each ethnic group has its own interests, views, and value systems. The principles of understanding the world and morality are part of this” [5, p.114]. According to the author, the identification of the core noun is influenced by a number of psychological regularities, specifically “the factors related to individual lexicon, which is the main achievement of the conducted study” [5, p. 130].

G.I. Isina's scientific research is aimed at providing a comprehensive analysis of phraseological units in modern English. Systematic study of PUs has allowed the author to explore in detail the logical nature, meaning, structure, and dynamic development of this linguistic category. “The variety and diversity of simile methods is reflected in the structural and semantic types of PhUs in the language, each having its own specific structural-semantic features and usage characteristics” [6, p. 14].

In M.T. Sabitova's monograph, a comparative analysis of the phraseological systems of the German and Kazakh languages is presented. In this work, the author outlines a method for solving issues related to the comparative phraseology of structurally different languages. The study aims to describe both languages synchronically and comparatively. The linguistic, particularly phraseological, theoretical concepts serve as the foundation for a comprehensive description. The monograph covers major issues such as interlingual relations of phraseological units, the formation of figurative meanings, phraseological patterns, as well as the lexical, structural-syntactic aspects of German and Kazakh phraseology. It also discusses the linguocultural and ethnolinguistic aspects of studying phraseology in these languages. In this research, M.T. Sabitova presents the first experience of a systematic structural comparison of German and Kazakh phraseological units. The

methods and approaches used in the analysis of the phraseological systems of structurally different languages can be applied to the study of phraseological systems in other related and non-related languages [7, p.95].

In discussing the ways in which comparative fixed expressions are formed, A.B. Salkynbai concludes that many free expressions first turn into metaphors, then into phraseological comparatives, i.e., derivative fixed expressions. The scholar also states, «Comparatives are created through metaphor, and from there, new derived meanings emerge in accordance with the needs arising in the development of the language system and conceptual development» [8, p. 260].

The comparative study of similes in English, German, and Kazakh employs both synchronous and comparative methods, alongside linguistic analysis. This approach aims to identify the shared features and distinctions between similes in these languages. As emphasized by previous scholars, “the correspondences in the phraseology of different languages, along with the historical laws governing their idioms, can be revealed through this method of comparison”. This approach allows researchers to compare and contrast similes across languages, which can reveal both universal and language-specific features.

The study emphasizes that the findings from one language cannot simply be applied to another, highlighting the importance of conducting separate research for each language's phraseological inventory. This ensures that the nuances and complexities of each language are taken into account in the comparative analysis. A.D. Raikhshtein states: “In phraseological research, compared to other levels of analysis, the need to compare within one language is higher” [9, p.143]. Many scientists study phraseological units by comparing them with free word combinations in terms of meaning, from various perspectives within individual languages, and investigate their semantic, national, and cultural characteristics.

Similarities and differences within a single language are not a phenomenon exclusive to that language alone, but such phenomena are also present in other languages. However, the goal and role of interlingual comparison are different, as languages that complement each other and belong to the same system are not compared. The result of interlingual comparison does not determine their systematic significance.

Nevertheless, generalizing the systems of linguistic tools of languages of different types gives a typological description of their structure, that is, it shows the main phenomena and features of large linguistic groups of different types of languages.

Comparing languages forms the basis of various theoretical and applied directions in modern linguistic research. The main directions of comparative and contrastive linguistics today are as follows:

- a) Translation theory - establishes stable patterns of functional-semantic similarities between units of two languages;
- b) Contrastive linguistics - identifies the peculiarities of foreign language teaching, as well as the differences between the native language and a foreign language;
- c) Bilingual and multilingual lexicography - regulates stable correspondences in the lexicon and phraseology of these languages.

Typological research plays a significant role in identifying similarities and differences between languages in comparing linguistic phenomena in language pairs. Comparative linguistics is divided into several areas: based on the languages being compared (two or more, related or unrelated), the sub-systems of the language (comparative lexicology, grammar, phraseology, etc.), and the analysis directions (typological, translational, lexicographical, etc.).

A.D. Raikhshtein, pointing out the difficulties and under-research of linguistic comparative analysis, has identified the following principles that can be applied to any level of comparison between different language groups and languages [9, p.147]:

- The study of individual languages should be carried out through comparison as a whole and in stages; studying one language should begin before interlingual research;

- Comparative analysis of similarities and differences - comparison is based on objective similarities between the units being compared;

-Comparing linguistic units should be conducted based on a unified theory of studying individual languages.

A unified concept is realized through a terminological apparatus;

- One-sided or two-sided comparison: its results may be one-sided (studying language A's features in relation to language B's features, or vice versa) or two-sided (analyzing languages A and B simultaneously);

- Comparative analysis can be directed from linguistic form to content (semasiological approach) or from content to its expression (enemasiological approach). These two approaches are interrelated in comparative research;

- Comparative research may be synchronic or diachronic;

- The sources of comparative analysis include the original texts of the languages being compared and translation materials.

Considering comparative phraseological units as a separate group of German language phraseology, I.I. Chernysheva uses their integrity, combination in the territory of known words (verb, verb-adjective, adjective) as a distinguishing feature of comparative phraseology. This proves that they consist of a two-membered structure. Adjectives or verbs with which comparative phraseological units are attached are often marked as syntactic and phraseological elements, and the transformation of the simile into stability is connected only with the syntactic conditional element. "The uniqueness of the meaning of phraseological units is evident when the meanings of phraseological units are determined according to their syntactic structure, and the term "comparative phraseological units" has the meaning". Thus, phraseological similes can be distinguished from other phraseological units by the relationship of their structural and lexical-semantic factors [10, p.21].

The thesis work of N.S. Fedoseeva is devoted to the study of the semantic, syntactic and communicative unity of the simile. Although the nominative, syntactic, morphological and word-formative aspects of simile have been studied by many scientists, however, "in domestic and foreign research works, linguistic similes are taken only from one side, and their meaning is not fully revealed". Therefore, the systematic structure of the simile category in modern English and German is epistemological, logical and linguistic aspects, describes the construction of similes from the onomasiological and semasiological point of view. Some conclusions of the author draw special attention:

a) dissimilar, unequal thinking and linguistic similes.

The epistemological operation of equation is universal, it shows the basic methods of formation of new concepts. Linguistic simile leads to the conclusion of the thinking process to the analysis and synthesis of the features of the object. Its logical formula contains the necessary minimum of form for the implementation of the act of comparison.

b) the simile is based on the semantic category of difference. Similarity is a necessary prerequisite and result of equality. Difference does not negate similarity, it establishes it as a condition for equality.

b) ideological and opposite - is the borderline state of similarity and difference. Balancing shows the conformity of the qualitative and quantitative properties of the objects to be balanced. Contrast is the antipode of balance.

c) comparative idioms have a logical structure like occasional similes. Relativity, expressiveness, stylistic consistency are characteristic of their semantic components. Comparative phraseological units have an inseparable unity of components, descriptive quality.

d) the simile indicator indicates the presence or absence of simile during speech. Such indicators in German similes, grammatical suffixes of degree, interjections: wie, als, denn, derart, dermassen, diegleichen, gleich, unerschiedlich, so, genauso, ungefähr, etc. lexical units [11, p.9].

Z.A. Bozheeva, who studied constant similes in the German language, considered the structural and semantic phenomena of phraseological units and related predicative, comparative phraseological units, and identified three stages of the development of similes: equalization, difference, proportional correspondence [12, p.28].

On this basis, comparative phraseological units are divided into comparative phraseological units with the meaning of similarity, meaning of difference and proportional correspondence. The elements of the logical formula of the simile alternate according to the position of the comparative phraseological unit. This is proven by the appearance of patterns within the comparative phraseological unit as a result of the change in the nature of the compared objects.

Z.A. Bozheeva determined that a special group of speech tools at each level consists of a comparative phraseological unit of the predicative type (sentence structure). The structural-syntactic division of comparative phraseological units with a sentence structure can determine the following meanings:

- a) adequately depicts the logical structure of the simile as a complex movement of thought;
- b) shows epistemological levels of comparison with different heuristic effects;
- b) comparison as a way of cognition can be shown in the quality of a category of ontological development to the degree that it deeply reflects its properties from a simple superficial perception.

The materials used in this study were selected to provide a representative cross-section of simile usage:

-English: Literary texts, idiomatic dictionaries, spoken language corpora (e.g., the British National Corpus), and online sources capturing contemporary language usage.

-German: Samples were gathered from classical and modern literature, Duden idiomatic collections, and recordings of colloquial speech.

-Kazakh Data were sourced from oral traditions, poetry, proverbs, and modern written texts such as newspapers and social media posts. This diversity ensured a broad representation of similes across formal, informal, and artistic contexts.

### Results and discussion

The research was conducted with the aim of revealing lexical and semantic features of similes in English, German and Kazakh languages. The results showed that in English similes are most often based on nature, animals and comparisons with objects. In German, the main emphasis is on human behavior, emotions and physical characteristics. In the Kazakh language, phraseology is mainly related to culture, traditions and nature. The discussion of the results allows us to draw a conclusion about the influence of the cultural context on the formation of phraseological comparisons in the languages under consideration.

A special layer of language richness is phraseological units, and the rich part of its national character and national color is phraseological similes, therefore, the comparative study of phraseological similes in languages with different structures is a relevant issue, because each simile is considered a means of conveying the facts of the reality surrounding us, and an image, the difference in the picture shows the difference in the path of each people, national characteristics, there are traces of the life, traditions, and historical periods of the language-speaking people.

For example:

German: dick wie ein Bierfaß - сыра бөшкесі сияқты семіз

Kazakh: бес биенің сабасындай

English: to fight like Kilkenny cats - Килкендік мысықтар сияқты өмір үшін айқасу;

Russian: предсказал, как в воду смотрел.



These phraseological similes depict the dark meaning of old legends, legends and parables. Phraseological expressions of a national tone, which reflect the national worldview and culture in languages, are the spiritual treasure of the people.

R.A. Glazyrin established a number of positions of comparative study of similes. In order to achieve a more accurate objectivity of the comparative study, it is not necessary to obtain material from more than three languages, one of which should be the main language. According to the author's opinion, language materials taken as a form for comparative analysis should first be analyzed in descriptive form and considered in the scope of comparative linguistics. The analysis should be done on a "unit-by-unit" basis, then on a "system-by-system" basis. The comparison method should be determined by directly bringing one system into another. Comparison of phraseological units is carried out in two stages:

- a) elemental simile (denotative) forming a phraseological unit of components;
- b) compare the meaning of whole units.

In a comparative study, along with the paradigmatic: synonymous, antonymous, word-formative relationships of words, syntagmatic: grammatical and valence relationships should also be taken into account, because in phraseology, units that are in different relationships in the language system meet [13, p.21].

Comparative analysis offers a necessary connection with some theoretical problems, namely: the problem of "semantic field", the aspect of translation, the problem of variability and invariance. Here interlinguistic laws come into force and signs (criteria) for invariant distribution are mentioned. For example:

German: wie auf gluhenden Kohlen sitzen – (жанып тұрған көмірде отырғандай);

English: to sit like a cat on hot bricks- (қызып тұрған кірпіште отырған мысықтай);

Kazakh: найза ұшында отырғандай;

Russian: сидеть как на иголках and etc.

R.A. Glazyrin takes regular verbs in German, English and Swedish as a form of comparative analysis, identifies their simile and distinctive features in grammatical and semantic structure. From the point of view of comparison, the main differences of constant equations are divided into the following units:

a) absolutely similar units, equivalents, i.e. units whose lexical composition, simile image matches:

German: stumm wie ein Fisch - орыс тілінде: нем как рыба.

English: as mute as a fish.

German: veränderlich wie Aprilwetter (сәуірдегі ауа райындай өзгермелі);

English: change like a weathercock – (флюгель сияқты өзгермелі).

The methods of this research can be used in the comparative analysis of phraseological comparisons of unrelated languages, such as German and Kazakh. In some studies, the description of phraseological equations is considered only within the framework of correspondence and inconsistency of phraseological equations in related languages.

Similes are rich linguistic expressions that compare two entities, often enhancing descriptions and conveying cultural nuances. They reflect the values, beliefs, and natural environments of the speakers. This article explores the lexical and semantic features of phraseological similes in English, Kazakh, and German, providing examples that illustrate their unique characteristics and commonalities.

### 1. Lexical features

The vocabulary used in similes often reflects cultural contexts. Each language has its choices influenced by the speakers' environment. For example:

- Kazakh: «арыстандай айбаты» (as formidable as a lion)

- German: «so stark wie ein Löwe» (as strong as a lion)

- English: «as brave as a lion»

All three expressions use the lion to symbolize strength, but their connotations can vary based a cultural context.

- Fixedness and variability

Similes tend to be fixed expressions, yet they can exhibit variability in informal contexts. For example:

- Kazakh: «жылан сияқты» (like a snake)
- German: «so schlau wie ein Fuchs» (as sly a)
- English: «as sly as a fox».

The English and German expressions are more fixed depending on dialect.

## 2. Semantic Features

- Comparative Nature

The primary function of similes is to create a comparative relationship that enhances meaning

For instance:

- Kazakh: «баладай таза» (as clean as a child)
- German: «so rein wie ein Kind» (as pure as a child)
- English: «as clean as a whistle»

All three similes emphasize purity and innocence, highlighting shared cultural values regarding childhood. [ 14, p.28].

## 3. Cultural context and connotation

Cultural context significantly influences the meaning of similes. For example:

- Kazakh: «түйе сияқты төзімді» (as patient as a camel) reflects the importance of camels in nomadic culture.

-German: «so geduldig wie ein Lamm» (as patient as a lamb) draws from different cultural imagery.

- English: «as patient as a saint» highlights a more abstract concept of patience.

These examples illustrate how different culture use similes to convey similar traits while drawing from unique cultural symbols.

## 4. Comparative analysis

- Similarities across languages

All three languages frequently employ animals in similes to convey traits. For instance. cleverness is represented similarly:

- Kazakh: «түлкідей айлакер» (as cunning as a fox)
- German: «so schlau wie ein Fuchs» (as sly as a fox)
- English: «as clever as a fox»

- differences in usage and structure

Despite similarities notable differences arise in usage. Kazakh similes often emphasize elements from nature, while German similes may incorporate cultural reference from folklore. For example:

Kazakh: «шымшықтай шапшаң» (as quick as a sparrow)

German: «so schnell wie der Wind» (as fast as the wind)

English: «as fast as lightning»

This highlights distinct environmental influences and cultural perspectives demonstrated in the Table 1.

**Table 1– Comparative analysis of English, German and Kazakh Languages**

Theme / Concept	English Simile	German Simile	Kazakh Simile	Explanation
1	2	3	4	5
Bravery	As brave as a lion	So tapfer wie ein Löwe	Арыстандай айбатты (Arystandai aybatty)	All three languages use the lion as a symbol of bravery. The lion's courage is universally recognized, making it a common figure for bravery.
Speed	As fast as a cheetah	Schnell wie ein Gepard	Құйрығы жел болғандай (Quyrygy jel bolganday)	English and German use the cheetah, known for its speed. In Kazakh, the simile compares speed to something moving as fast as the wind.
Wisdom	As wise as an owl	So weise wie eine Eule	Білімді адамдай (Bilmidi adamday)	All three languages use the owl, a symbol of wisdom, to emphasize knowledge and insight.
Beauty	As beautiful as a rose	So schön wie eine Rose	Гүлдей сұлу (Güldey sulu)	In all three languages, the rose is a universal symbol of beauty.
Hardworking	As busy as a bee	So fleißig wie eine Biene	Еңбекқор баладай (Enbekkor baladay)	The bee, known for its constant work and diligence, is used in all three languages to symbolize hard work and industry.
Anger	As angry as a bull	So wütend wie ein Stier	Түйедей ашуланған (Tüyedey ashulangan)	In English and German, the bull represents strength and anger, while in Kazakh, it compares anger to the ferocity of a camel.
Unpredictability	As unpredictable as the weather	So unberechenbar wie das Wetter	Ауа райындай өзгермелі (Aua rainday özgermeli)	Weather is a common metaphor for unpredictability in all three languages, reflecting how it can change suddenly and unexpectedly.
Weakness	As weak as a kitten	So schwach wie ein Kätzchen	Мысықтай әлсіз (Mysıqtay älsız)	The kitten is universally recognized as a symbol of frailty and innocence, conveying a sense of vulnerability and fragility.
Happiness	As happy as a lark	So glücklich wie eine Lerche	Құстай бақытты (Quştay baqyttı)	The lark, known for its cheerful song, is a symbol of joy and happiness in all three languages.
Fear	As scared as a rabbit	So ängstlich wie ein Hase	Қояндай қорқақ (Qoyanday qorqaq)	The rabbit is often used to symbolize fear due to its timid nature.
Strength	As strong as an ox	So stark wie ein Ochse	Ер адамдай күшті (Er adamday küşti)	The ox is used in all three languages to represent physical strength and hard work, especially in agricultural societies.
Coldness	As cold as ice	So kalt wie Eis	Мұздай суық (Mızday suıq)	Ice is universally associated with coldness across all three languages, symbolizing extreme cold and unfeeling nature.

*Continuation of Table 1*

1	2	3	4	5
Lightness	As light as a feather	So leicht wie eine Feder	Құстың қауырсынындай жеңіл (Qıstıñ qaurırsınday jengi)	A feather, symbolizing delicacy and lightness, is used in all three languages to express something that is light in weight or ease.
Cleverness	As clever as a fox	So schlau wie ein Fuchs	Түлкідей айлакер (Tülkidey aylaker)	The fox, known for its cunning and cleverness, appears in all three languages as a symbol of intelligence and trickery.
Happiness	As happy as a clam	So glücklich wie ein Aal	Құлындай қуанған (Quğınday quañan)	The comparison to a clam or an eel in English and German symbolizes a state of contentment, while in Kazakh, happiness is compared to a lively horse.
Strength of Character	As tough as nails	So zäh wie Nägel	Темірдей берік (Temirdey berik)	The metaphor of nails in English and German represents resilience and toughness. In Kazakh, it is compared to iron, a symbol of strength and durability.
Quietness	As quiet as a mouse	So leise wie eine Maus	Тыншыққан мысықтай (Tynşıqqan mysıqtay)	The mouse is often used to describe quietness and timidity in all three languages, emphasizing a subtle and almost undetectable presence.
Brightness	As bright as the sun	So hell wie die Sonne	Күндей жарқын (Kündey jarqın)	The sun, a universal symbol of light and brightness, is used in all three languages to represent something or someone shining brightly or radiantly.
Courage	As brave as a knight	So tapfer wie ein Ritter	Батырдай батыл (Batırday batıl)	The knight is a symbol of bravery in all three cultures, representing honor, strength, and courage in battle.
Fluffiness	As fluffy as a cloud	So fluffig wie eine Wolke	Бұлттай жұмсақ (Bulttay jumsaq)	Clouds are soft and light in all three languages, symbolizing something gentle, soft, and airy.

#### Explanation of the Similes:

1. Bravery (Lion) In all three languages, the lion is used as a symbol of strength and bravery. Lions are traditionally associated with courage in various cultures, making them a common reference for bravery across the world [15, p.32].

2. Speed (Cheetah) The cheetah is known for being the fastest land animal, which is why it appears in English and German to symbolize speed. In Kazakh, the wind serves a similar role, as it is fast and unpredictable.

3. Wisdom (Owl): The owl is a universal symbol of wisdom, representing knowledge and intellect in English, German, and Kazakh. Its quiet and observant nature makes it an ideal metaphor for someone who is wise.

4. Beauty (Rose): Roses have long been symbols of beauty and love across many cultures. The metaphor of «as beautiful as a rose» appears in all three languages as a common expression for

physical or inner beauty.

5. Hardworking (Bee): The bee is an emblem of diligence and industriousness. Its continuous work to gather nectar makes it an appropriate simile for someone who is hardworking. All three languages draw on this symbolism.

6. Anger (Bull): The bull, representing strength and aggression, is used to symbolize intense anger in both English and German. The Kazakh version uses a camel, which can also be fierce and represents raw power.

7. Unpredictability (Weather): Weather is often cited as a metaphor for changeability and unpredictability, as it can shift dramatically. This metaphor appears in all three languages to represent something or someone whose actions are difficult to predict.

8. Weakness (Kitten): The kitten is a common symbol of fragility due to its gentle and small nature. This simile is used in all three languages to describe someone or something that is vulnerable or weak.

9. Happiness (Lark): The lark's song is associated with joy and happiness in all three languages. The bird's cheerful singing represents a carefree, happy nature in English, German, and Kazakh cultures.

10. Fear (Rabbit): The rabbit is often portrayed as a fearful animal, quickly fleeing from danger. In all three languages, the rabbit is used to describe someone who is easily frightened or timid.

11. Strength (Ox): In English, German, and Kazakh, the ox is used as a symbol of physical strength, particularly because of its role in traditional agricultural labor. The ox is seen as a beast of burden capable of withstanding heavy labor, making it a fitting metaphor for someone strong or enduring.

12. Coldness (Ice): The simile "as cold as ice" appears in all three languages to describe something or someone that is emotionally distant, unfeeling, or physically cold. Ice universally represents extreme coldness, making it an apt metaphor for these qualities.

13. Lightness (Feather): A feather is commonly used in similes to represent something light and delicate. The idea of a feather being light and easily carried by the wind is a common cultural association, making this simile widespread across the three languages.

14. Cleverness (Fox): The fox is often seen as a symbol of cunning and intelligence in all three languages. Its ability to outsmart predators and navigate various situations makes it a fitting metaphor for cleverness, wit, and trickery.

15. Happiness (Clam): In English, the phrase "as happy as a clam" is used to describe a state of contentment or ease. In German, the expression compares happiness to the eel, which is often associated with something slippery or elusive, but still content. In Kazakh, happiness is compared to a horse, an animal that embodies freedom and joy.

16. Strength of Character (Nails/Iron): In English and German, the metaphor of being "tough as nails" suggests resilience and endurance, traits often associated with someone who can withstand adversity. The Kazakh version of this simile uses "iron", which represents durability, strength, and an unbreakable nature.

17. Quietness (Mouse): The comparison to a mouse is a popular metaphor for quietness in all three languages. Mice are small, timid creatures that are often associated with stealth and the ability to move unnoticed, making them ideal metaphors for silence or subtlety.

18. Brightness (Sun): The sun is a natural symbol of light and brightness. In all three languages, this simile is used to describe someone who is radiant, brilliant, or gives off a bright energy, whether physically or metaphorically. It suggests warmth, positivity, and vitality.

19. Courage (Knight): The knight, a historical figure associated with chivalry, valor, and battle, is used in English, German, and Kazakh to symbolize bravery and courage. The knight's association with fighting for justice and honor is universal across these cultures.

20. Fluffiness (Cloud): Clouds are used as a metaphor for softness and fluffiness in all three languages. The light, airy nature of clouds makes them a common image for something soft or gentle, whether referring to an object or a person's demeanor.

Similes in English, German, and Kazakh share some common themes, such as bravery, beauty, and wisdom, using similar metaphors like the lion, rose, and owl. However, each language also reflects its unique cultural context, seen in the specific animals or symbols used to convey particular ideas. The similes in all three languages serve not only as linguistic tools but also as windows into the cultural values and imagery of each society.

Through this comparative analysis, it is evident that all three languages use similes to encapsulate traits vivid imagery. Animals frequently serve as metaphors, indicating a shared human tendency to draw on nature for expression. However each language's cultural context shapes the specific imagery used in similes. Kazakh similes are often grounded in the nomadic lifestyle, while German and English similes may reflect urban and Western cultural values. While similes generally maintain a degree of fixedness, the flexibility observed in Kazakh allows for richer expressions based on context and dialect. German and English tend to preserve a more standardized form [16, p. 297].

According to the scientists Assenova A.Kh., Salkynbay A.B., Issayeva Zh.I. defined the correspondence, limitation and meaningfulness of the potential meaning of a word and its ability to convey the meaning of another word as semantic valence. She identified two types of valence: syntactic and semantic We can demonstrate the semantic relationship between the two languages by defining the meanings of different language units [17, p.144].

### **Conclusion**

Similes in English, German, and Kazakh reflect not only cultural values but also the linguistic creativity of each language. By examining their lexical and semantic characteristics, we gain insight into how language conveys meaning and, at the same time, mirrors the unique perspectives of its speakers. This analysis emphasizes the deep connection between language, culture, and thought.

The study of lexical and semantic features of similes in English, German, and Kazakh has led to several significant findings. First, each language has its own distinctive features in its use of comparisons, which reveal the cultural and linguistic traits specific to that language. Second, the semantics of phraseological comparisons affect how they are used and interpreted in different contexts. For instance, in English, comparative expressions are frequently linked to nature and animals, whereas English, German and Kazakh tend to feature more comparisons involving humans or objects. Third, the study demonstrates that phraseological comparisons play a key role in constructing the linguistic worldview and reflect the mentality of the people. Therefore, exploring these comparisons in various languages helps us better understand the cultural nuances and linguistic particularities of each.

The application of comparative analysis in phraseological studies leads to the development of a specialized field known as comparative phraseology.

The advancement of simile research is essential for understanding the phraseological systems of both related and unrelated languages. The comparative method is focused on specific aspects of language structure and individual microsystems. One such microsystem is created by the structural and semantic features of similes. The comparative study of similes in unrelated languages has significant theoretical and practical implications. It helps to uncover the laws and characteristics of a language system, deepen our understanding of the meaning of similes, and highlight the distinctive features of each language.

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